under the UNICEF assistance programme, two DH-10(2 truck) rigs have been provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and one more ATR rig is likely to be provided within a month.

(d) No, Sir.

Requirement of aluminium in the country

1369. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the annual estimated requirement of aluminium in the various sectors of economy in the country ;

(b) what is the comparative domestic production of aluminium during the last three years (year-wise) and what percentage of the demand is met with the indigenous production of aluminium ;

(c) what is the annual import, if any, of aluminium during the last three years (year-wise) stating the amount of foreign exchange invloved and the percentage of domestic-demand met as a result thereof ; and

(d) what are the considerations which weighed with Government to decontrol aluminium when it is in short supply and the domestic price per tonne is Rs. 1200/-more than the controlled price?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) During 1989-90, the demand of aluminium has been estimated in the range of 390,000 to 420,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The total availability of aluminium from 1986-87 to 1988-89 is as under :—

Year	Indigenous production ('000 tonnes)	Imports by MMTC ('000 tonnes/Rs. in crores)	Total availability ('000 tonnes)	%age of indigenous production against total availability
1986-87 . . .	257	65/102	322	80
1987-88 . . .	278	55/130	333	83
1988-89 . . .	357	..	357	100

(d) With increasing domestic production of aluminium metal, control over prices and distribution of aluminium has been removed from 1st March, 1989. Import of aluminium ingots and scrap is already on Open General Licence (OGL). The customs duty on imports of aluminium ingots has been abolished and the customs duty on imports of aluminium scrap has been drastically reduced with a view to cater to any fluctuations in demand.

Central aid to Tamil Nadu for housing for pavement dwellers

1370. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : SHRI T. R. BALU :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had sanctioned any aid/grant/loan to Tamil Nadu for construction of dwelling units for pavement dwellers;

(b) if so, what is the amount an d details of the scheme and also the

manner in which the aid/grant/loan is supposed to be distributed ;

(c) the number of pavement dwellers in Tamil Nadu as on date ; and

(d) the total numbers of pavement dwellers in Madras city alone as on date?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI (MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) During 1988-89, Central Govt. had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 125.60 lakhs as grants-in-aid to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for construction of dwelling units for 3140 identified pavement dwellers households on plots in two locations in Madras identified by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. This scheme provided for a grant of Rs. 4000 per household for a core structure which will be dovetailed with loans to be arranged from HUDCO or nationalised banks. The ceiling cost of construction of the dwelling units will be Rs. 15,000. The dwelling units are to be constructed on a self-help basis by the individual families with provision for incremental housing. Infrastructural facilities will be provided by the State Government.

In addition, Central Government had also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 8 lakhs as grant-in-aid to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu during 1988-89 for construction in Madras four night shelters each to accommodate 100 pavement dwellers. The implementing agency of the schemes is the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board which will draw the amount of Central grant from the State Govt.

(c) and (d) As per 1981 Census, the number of houseless population in Tamil Nadu is 57,461 and in Madras (urban agglomeration) is 8140.

Indian workers in Kuwait

1371. SHRI T. R. BALU :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that 1200 Indian workers employed in Kuwait went on strike for 11 weeks, if so, what was the dispute which made them resort to strike ;

(b) what steps were taken by Indian Embassy to settle the dispute and how far they succeeded ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Embassy officials ignored the issue and did not take any positive steps to get the matter resolved ;

(d) whether Government have constituted any independent committee outside External Affairs Ministry to probe the conduct of our officials at Kuwait, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to immediately recall the whole staff of Indian Embassy in Kuwait pending the enquiry into their conduct ; and

(f) if the answers to parts (d) and (e) above be in negative, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the functioning of Indian Embassy at Kuwait?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) The Indian Embassy, Kuwait has intimated that over 950 Indian workers employed on a housing project in the AL-QUARAN area of Kuwait stopped work from 21-1-89 onwards on account of non-payment of their wages.

(b) and (c) Through the effectiv intervention of the Indian Embassy